## We claim:

- 1. A DNA construct encoding a  $\delta$ -zein, comprising a  $\delta$ -zein coding sequence operably linked to a promoter and to a sequence encoding a modified 3' untranslated region (UTR), the 3' UTR being modified so as to be devoid of binding sites for a dzrl negative regulatory protein.
- 2. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the modified 3' UTR is produced by replacing the sequence encoding the dzrl binding site-containing 3'UTR with a heterologous sequence encoding a 3' UTR devoid of said binding sites.
- 3. The DNA construct of claim 2, wherein the heterologous sequence is a 3' UTR-encoding sequence from a cauliflower mosaic virus 35S gene.
- 4. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the modified 3' UTR is produced by site-directed mutagenesis of sequences encoding the binding sites.
- 5. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the  $\delta$ -zein coding region encodes a  $\delta$ -zein selected from the group consisting of a 10 kDa zein and an 18 kDa zein.
  - 6. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the promoter is a seed-specific promoter.
- 7. The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein the promoter is selected from the group consisting of a 27 kDa zein gene promoter, a 27 kDa (O2) zein gene promoter, a 10 kDa zein gene promoter and an 18 kDa zein gene promoter.

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- 8. A vector for transforming a plant cell, comprising the DNA construct of claim 1.
- 9. A plant cell transformed with the vector of claim 8.
  - 10. A fertile, transgenic plant regenerated from the transformed cell of claim 9.
  - 11. A method of making high methionine corn seeds comprising the steps of:
  - a) producing a fertile transgenic corn plant expressing the DNA construct of claim 1;
    - b) growing the plant; and
    - c) harvesting seeds from the plant.
- 12. A chimeric gene encoding a 10 kDa zein, comprising a 10 kDa zein coding region operably linked at 20 its 5' end to a promoter, and to its 3' end to a heterologous 3' UTR.
  - 13. The chimeric gene of claim 12, in which the promoter is selected from the group consisting of a 27 kDa zein gene promoter, a 27 kDa (O2) zein gene promoter, a 10 kDa zein gene promoter and an 18 kDa zein gene promoter.
  - The chimeric gene of claim 13, comprising a 10 kDa zein coding region operably linked to a 27 kDa zein gene promoter and a CaMV 35S gene 3' UTR.
  - 15. A vector comprising the chimeric gene of claim 14.

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- 16. The vector of claim 15, which is pJM2710.
- 17. A fertile transgenic corn plant which expresses the chimeric gene of claim 13.

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- 18. A method of making high methionine corn seeds comprising the steps of:
- a) producing a fertile transgenic corn plant expressing the chimeric gene of claim 11;

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- b) growing the plant; and
- c) harvesting seeds from the plant.

19. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a 3' untranslated region of a 10-kDa zein gene.

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20./ The nucleic acid of claim 19, having SEQ

ID NO:1.

21. A chimeric gene comprising a coding sequence operably linked to a promoter and the 3' untranslated region of claim 19.